Food supplements

1236. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of products are being marketed in India as food supplements;

(b) whether it is a fact that some food supplements are being exported and some food supplements of foreign origin are also finding their way into India;

(c) if so, whether Government are aware of the need for an Act to regulate production, marketing and export of food supplements; and

(d) the action taken so far in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy (ISM&H) had initiated a proposal to prepare a Health Food Supplement (HFS) Bill but no final decision has been taken.

Amendment of Essential Commodities Act

1237. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether almost 200 sugar mills in the country, of which 138 are working, could not be able to sell a single kg. of sugar during June, 2003 with the amendment to the Essential Commodities Act took effective from June 2, 2003;

(b) if so, the total number of sugar mills who have been granted free-sale quota for June;

(c) whether Government are planning to introduce a Bill to bring the amendments to the ECA under the Ninth Schedule (Article 31B) of the Constitution; and

(d) if so, whether Government are also likely to issue Ordinance to this effect?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) While non-levy sugar quota for the month of June, 2003 was not allotted to 138 sugar mills (who were governed by the directions of various Courts in this regard), 335 sugar factories were allotted non-levy sugar quota for June, 2003, as per the entitlement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

Special Cell in FCI

1238. DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether to ease the pressure of procuring foodgrains like wheat and rice and maintaining huge stock in their own godowns, the Food Corporation of India is planning to set up a special cell which would advise State Governments and farmers to diversify into other crops like oilseeds;

(b) if so, whether any concrete plan in this regard have been worked out;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what are the steps FCI is proposing to take to meet the excess stocks and also make available space for further stocks of rice and wheat in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) No, Sir. FCI has no proposal to set up such a special cell. However, the Government is separately examining proposals to facilitate the diversification from wheat and rice to other crops in certain States.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.